

ON A NEW SNAKE FROM THE BARRIER RANGES.

BY WILLIAM MACLEAY, F.L.S., &c.

Among a small collection of reptiles made at Milparinka by Mr Charles Macarthur King, P.M., and presented by him to the Australian Museum, I find an undescribed species of the genus *Furina*. Two species have been previously described. *Furina bimaculata*, Dum. and Bibr., an inhabitant of Western Australia, and *Furina bicucullata*, M'Coy, found in the colony of Victoria.

The present species I propose to name after the distinguished Curator of the Australian Museum, E. P. Ramsay, F.R.S.E., &c.

FURINA RAMSAYI.

Scales in	17 rows.
Ventral plates.....	162
Sub-caudals.....	38/38
Anal plate.....	bifid.
Total length.....	15 inches.
Tail.....	2½ inches.

Colour reddish yellow on the back, whitish yellow beneath. The upper surface of the head and a broad band behind the head, black, the muzzle and a broad collar on the back of the head, white. Four, or in some cases five narrow black bands or rings, not extending to the ventral plates, cross the body at almost regular intervals; the last at the junction of the tail; the tip of the tail is also black.

The head plates are like those of *F. cucullata*, but the rostral shield seems to be more triangularly rounded between the anterior frontals, and the vertical is almost quite truncate in front; the anterior ocular and the nasal at their junction completely separate the posterior frontal and second labial.

The three species of the genus *Furina* have a strong general resemblance, particularly in the colouration of the head, but they differ in other respects as widely as in their distribution. Thus in *F. bimaculata* the scales are in 15 rows, the belly plates are 200, and the sub-caudals 21/21, while in *F. bicucullata* the scales are as

in the present species in 17 rows ; the ventral plates vary from 180 to 220, and the sub-caudals are in 64 or 66 pairs, differing widely from *F. Ramsayi*, where they are respectively 162 and 38/38. The markings on the body also seem distinct and constant in each.

There are three specimens in the collection, of different sizes, but all marked alike. The dimensions given above are from the largest specimen. The other Reptilia from Mount Brown received at the same time were a specimen of *Vernicella annulata*, the rare *Delma Fraseri*, a species of *Typhlops* doubtful.

NOTES AND EXHIBITS.

Mr. Whitelegge exhibited a large collection of fossil ferns from the Hawkesbury and Wianamatta beds, mounted as transparent objects for the microscope. It is remarkable that the tissues of these plants have remained almost unaltered and perfectly elastic and pliant through the vast periods during which they have been preserved.

Mr. Tenison-Woods exhibited two very small stone axes, or "kelts," from the Murrumbidgee, supposed to have been used for ceremonial purposes ; a canoe ornament from Florida, Solomon Islands ; a wooden figure of a mammal (*Cuscus*?) from the Louisiade Archipelago ; and several fine stone axes from New Guinea, the Louisiades, Solomon Islands, New Zealand, and Australia.

The President exhibited some of the "pug," or mixed clay and wash-dirt which is being worked in the Caledonian claim, near Gulgong. This material is found filling up the ancient caverns and tunnels of a mass of crystalline Devonian (?) limestone, excavated under conditions of rainfall and drainage totally different from those now existing. It contains large quantities of iron and manganese in small grains, and also in lumps of considerable size. The gold is said to be coarse, or nuggetty.

He also exhibited specimens of *Macadamia ternifolia*, or Queensland nut, in illustration of Dr. Woolls' paper.